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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,515	10/22/2001	Krishnaswamy Ramkumar	CY 0025	4777

7590

11/06/2002

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EXAMINER

KILDAY, LISA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,515

Applicant(s)

RAMKUMAR, KRISHNASWAMY

Examiner

Lisa A Kilday

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on election on 9/26/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Species I in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the species are not independent and distinct. This is not found persuasive because examiner provided figures for Species I: method of forming an EEPROM (fig. 1&2) and Species II: method of forming a SONOS device (fig. 3, 4F, 6, 7). The specification clearly points out a first and second embodiment on pg. 10 lines 3-4 and pg. 10 lines 10-22. The first embodiment found in figure 2 is an EEPROM device. The second embodiment found in figure 3 is a SONOS device. Examiner will examine claims 1-6 drawn to a method of forming an EEPROM.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miner et al. ("Miner" 6,114,258). In re claim 1, Miner discloses in figures 1-3 a method of forming a plurality of semiconductor device layers, comprising the steps of: forming an oxide layer (120) by reacting hydrogen and oxygen on a surface of an insulating layer deposited over a wafer (col. 5 lines 6-25); and forming a conductive gate layer over the oxide layer (110, col. 1 lines 62-67).

In re claim 2, Miner discloses the reacting of Hydrogen and Oxygen is performed at a wafer temperature in about 800-1300C (col. 8 lines 15-20).

In re claim 3, Miner discloses that the oxide layer has a thickness of 20-60 Å (fig. 8a-b, col. 10 lines 9-52).

In re claim 4, Miner discloses the reacting of Hydrogen and Oxygen on the wafer surface has a duration in the range of 30 s. to 2 min (fig. 8a-b, col. 10 lines 9-52).

In re claim 5, Miner discloses the reacting of Hydrogen and Oxygen on the wafer surface has a duration of approximately 1 minute (col. 10 line 40).

In re claim 6, Miner discloses that the conductive gate includes polysilicon (col. 1 lines 14-16 and lines 59-65).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yu (6,323,143).


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0957. See MPEP 203.08.

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Kilday whose telephone number is (703) 306-5728. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo, can be reached on (703) 308-1233. The fax number for the group is (703) 305-3432. MPEP 502.01 contains instructions regarding procedures used in submitting responses by facsimile transmission.

Lisa Kilday

LAK

10/30/02


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